(c) and (d) The vacancy has already been re-circulated to fill up the post at the earliest in accordance with extant instructions.

Fragging among armed forces

1535 SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of fragging among armed forces reported during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of the personnel who died and those injured in such cases; year-wise;

(c) whether Government have assessed the pattern in respect of ranks of personnel who had to resort to fragging;

(d) which are the areas where most of the cases of fragging occurred;

(e) whether Government have assessed the causes of such incidents;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) what steps are being taken to address such causes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (g) There have been five incidents of fratricide in Army in 2004, six in 2005 and eleven in 2006 (upto 4th November, 2006). No such incident has been reported in Air Force and Navy during the last three years. The year-wise details of personnel killed and injured in such cases in the Army during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Killed	Injured
2004	09	03
2005	13	Nil
2006 (upto 4th November, 2006)	23	07

The incidents of fratricide have been resorted to by Other Ranks (ORs) and most of the cases have occurred in Jammu & Kashmir and North East. All these cases are investigated by Courts of Inquiry to ascertain the causes. Some of the causes attributed to these killings are as under:—

(i) Argument(s) between colleagues.

(ii) Perceived grievance/harassment by seniors.

Various steps have been taken to contain and prevent such incidents. These include:

(i) Study by Defence Institute of Psychological Research, Delhi to identify factors, which lead to these incidents and suggest remedial measures.

(ii) Impart training to Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) to act as counsellors in sensitive areas.

(iii) Increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with soldiers, better man management and prompt attendance to grievances.

(iv) Strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit.

(v) Liberalised leave policy to attend to domestic problems.

(vi) Identification and counselling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders.

(vii) Counselling by religious teachers.

(viii) Psychological counselling by psychiatrists while required.

(ix) Training capsules in relaxation exercise including yoga/meditation.

(x) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.

These measures are being monitored by the senior officers. All officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitized to the above issues.

Government have also decided to strengthen the Zilla Sainik Board (ZSB) to make them more responsive to the problems and difficulties of the soldiers and their families and establish a network so that the

grievances of soldiers could be intimated to the concerned ZSB by the unit commander and regular monitoring by the units and the nearest army unit/HQrs.

Protection of Indian fishermen by Coast Guard

1536. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coast Guard has increased patrolling on the west coast to protect Indian fishermen;

(b) what steps the Coast Guard would take to advise and caution Indian fishermen from straying near the waters of India's neghbours;

(c) whether Coast Guards has convened any meeting with Indian fishermen and fishing sector and deep-sea fishing companies to increase co-operation; and

(d) the steps proposed by the Coast Guard to become accessible to the Indian fishery sector and to help them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The Indian Coast Guard carries out round the clock surveillance of the India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which includes monitoring of the operations of all fishing vessels along the west coast. Protecting our fishermen and guiding them in the areas near the borders of other countries is an important task that is included in the Charter of Duties of Indian Coast Guard.

Indian fishermen are regularly advised to keep clear of the International Maritime Boundary Line by at least five nautical miles, to avod interception and apprehension by the security forces of other countries. In addition, community interaction programmes are organized at frequent intervals along the coastal villages on the west coast to educate fishermen community on issues like, safety at sea, search and rescue procedure, use of available communication, safety equipments at sea. The Coast Guard is also advising deep sea fishing companies to operate as per the conditions of Letter of Permit (LOP) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. For better accessibility the Coast Guard has provided a toll free telephone number 155211 for search and rescue assistance to fishermen at sea.